



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of May 18, 2015

The House is in recess this week. Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of May 18, 2015, below.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Monday, May 18th

2:00 | House meets for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 474](#) – Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015 - This bill reauthorizes the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program for fiscal 2015 through 2020. The measure also clarifies eligibility to include veterans participating in federal housing programs with rental vouchers, as well as homeless veterans transitioning from prison.

[H.R. 1038](#) – Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act - This bill requires the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the department in his or her permanent record as long as he or she is employed there.

[H.R. 1313](#) – Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act - This bill would allow a surviving spouse of a veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of less than 100%, and who does not die because of the service-connected disability, to retain the veteran's small business "preferred status" for up to three years after the veteran's death.

[H.R. 1382](#) – Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act - This bill authorizes the Veterans Affairs Department to give preference to private contractors that employ veterans. The measure provides that in awarding a contract or task order for the procurement of goods or services, the VA may give a preference to offer that employ veterans on a full-time basis. The VA would determine the preference based on the percentage of the full-time employees who are veterans.

[H.R. 91](#) – Veteran’s I.D. Card Act - This bill requires the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to issue an identification card to any covered veteran who requests such a card and who was discharged from the armed forces under honorable conditions.

[H.R. 1816](#) – Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015 - This bill excludes Veterans Affairs aid and attendance payments from being considered as family income for the purposes of HUD housing assistance programs. It also reduces the annual aggregate amount of awards and bonuses that the Veterans Affairs Department is allowed to pay its employees by \$10 million for fiscal 2016-20.

[S. 178](#) – Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 - This bill authorizes a number of programs to combat sex trafficking, particularly the sex trafficking of minors. Among its provisions, it establishes a fund to support trafficking victims, creates a new victim-centered grant program to provide assistance to states and local law enforcement to bolster the investigation and prosecution of sex trafficking, and to help the victims of such crimes; and strengthens the ability of law enforcement to investigate and prosecute sex trafficking, including by targeting individuals who purchase sex from human trafficking victims, in an effort to reduce "demand."

5:00 | House Committee on Rules Business Meeting to consider:

[H.R. 1806](#) - America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 - The bill authorizes about \$32.9 billion over two years for numerous agencies that support scientific research, industrial innovation and certain

educational activities — including the National Science Foundation, the National Institute for Standards and Technology, the Energy Department and the Office of Science and Technology Policy — authorizing \$16.4 billion for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Tuesday, May 19th

10:00 | House Committee on Education and the Workforce Hearing: “Addressing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Federal Child Nutrition Programs.” Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:00 | House Committee on the Judiciary Hearing: Policing Strategies for the 21st Century

10:00 | Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Hearing: Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on air traffic control modernization and reform. This hearing will focus on the agency’s efforts to modernize the air traffic control (ATC) system, including the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) initiative, and explore potential structural reforms of the system.

10:00 | Senate EPW Hearing: [S.1140](#), to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term "waters of the United States".

10:00 | Senate Finance Hearing: How to safely reduce reliance on foster care group homes. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

2:00 | House meets for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 2353](#) - Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015 - This bill reauthorizes federal-aid highway and transit programs for two months, through July 31. It does not, however, provide any additional transfers of general Treasury funding to the Highway Trust Fund; existing trust fund financing is expected to be sufficient through the end of July. Specifically, it extends the authorization for surface transportation programs — including federal aid highway, mass transit and safety programs — for two months, through July 31. Authority to spend money from the Highway Trust Fund would also be extended through that date. The current authorization for surface transportation programs expires at the end of May. Under the measure, highway and transit spending authority for those two months generally would be at comparable FY 2014 levels.

Wednesday, May 20th

9:30 | House Committee on Appropriations Markup: Subcommittee Markup - FY 2016 Defense Appropriations Bill

9:30 | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Joint Legislative Hearing on "To protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes." Click [here](#) to view the discussion draft and [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:30 | House Committee on Appropriations Markup: Full Committee Markup - FY 2016 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

1:30 | House Committee on Agriculture Hearing: Past Present and Future of SNAP: The World of Nutrition Government Duplication and Unmet Needs. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

1:30 | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Legislative Hearing on a Discussion Draft to "Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act." Click [here](#) for the discussion draft, hearing memo and to watch the webcast live.

2:00 | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Oversight Hearing on "State Perspectives on the Status of Cooperating Agencies for the Office of Surface Mining's Stream Protection Rule. Click [here](#) to view the hearing memo and watch the webcast live.

2:15 | Senate Aging Hearings: Solutions to the hospital observation stay crisis.

Thursday, May 21st

10:00 | Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Markup: "The Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015".

10:15 | House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing: What are the State Governments Doing to Combat the Opioid Abuse Epidemic?

2:30 | Senate Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Hearing to consider:

[S.160](#), and [H.R.373](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions.